

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system comprising:
 - a processor;
 - input means for receiving input from a user;
 - a display device for providing visual output from the operating system to the user;
 - a system bus connecting the processor to the display device and the input means;
 - machine readable storage media coupled to the system bus for storing programs performable by the processor, including a boot block for loading an operating system for the computer system; and
 - a feature card with memory storage media for a second boot block for loading an operating system for the computer and security code for measuring security compliance of the second boot block when enabled.
2. The computer system of Claim 1, further including:
 - a connector for connecting the feature card to the system bus.
3. The computer system of Claim 1, further including:
 - a switch mechanism for indicating which of the boot blocks is to load an operating system for the computer system.

1 4. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the switch mechanism includes a
2 control switch.

1 5. The computer system of Claim 3, wherein the control switch activates the second
2 boot block when the feature card is enabled.

1 6. The computer system of Claim 3, wherein the control switch activates the boot
2 block in the machine readable storage media when the feature card is disabled.

1 7. The computer system of Claim 2, wherein the computer system is susceptible to
2 a system reset, and the feature card includes logic responsive to the switch mechanism
3 for inhibiting operation of the feature card if the boot block in the machine readable
4 storage media is enabled.

1 8. The computer system of Claim 2, further including a latch mechanism for storing
2 the output of the switch mechanism indicating which of the boot blocks is to load an
3 operating system for the computer system.

1 9. A computer system comprising:
2 a processor located on a system planar;
3 input means for receiving input from a user;
4 a display device for providing visual output from the software applications to the
5 user;
6 a system bus connecting the processor to the display device and the input means;
7 machine readable storage media located on the system planar with the processor
8 and coupled to the system bus for storing programs performable by the processor;
9 an interface adapter for transferring input from the user at the input means to the
10 system bus;
11 a feature card separate from the system planar and provided with memory storage
12 media for a second boot block for loading an operating system for the computer, and
13 security code for measuring security compliance of the second boot block when enabled;
14 and
15 a connector for connecting the feature card to the system bus.

1 10. The computer system of Claim 9, further including:
2 a switch mechanism for indicating which of the boot blocks is to load an
3 operating system for the computer system.

1 11. The computer system of Claim 10, wherein the switch mechanism includes a
2 control switch.

1 12. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein the control switch activates the
2 second boot block when the feature card is enabled.

1 13. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein the control switch activates the boot
2 block in the machine readable storage media when the feature card is disabled.

1 14. The computer system of Claim 9, wherein the computer system is susceptible to
2 a system reset, and the feature card includes logic responsive to the switch mechanism
3 for inhibiting operation of the feature card if the boot block in the machine readable
4 storage media is enabled.

1 15. The computer system of Claim 9, further including a latch mechanism for storing
2 the output of the switch mechanism indicating which of the boot blocks is to load an
3 operating system for the computer system.

1 16. A method of loading an operating system for a computer system in compliance
2 with a security code meeting TCPA standards, comprising the steps of:
3 verifying if the security compliance feature is activated; and
4 if so, loading the security compliant operating system.

1 17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the computer system also includes a
2 conventional program for loading an operating system, and further including the step of
3 loading the operating system with the conventional program if the security compliance
4 feature is not enabled.

1 18. The method of Claim 16, wherein the computer system is susceptible of a reset
2 operation and further including the step of inhibiting loading of the security compliant
3 operating system in the event of a reset operation.

1 19. A feature card for loading an operating system for a computer system in
2 compliance with a security code meeting TCPA standards, comprising:

3 machine readable memory storage media on the feature card and containing a
4 boot block for loading an operating system for the computer system; and

5 a security code in the machine readable memory storage media for measuring
6 security compliance of the boot block when enabled.

7 20. The feature card of Claim 19, further including:

8 logic on the feature card responsive to a system reset of the computer system for
9 inhibiting operation of the feature card if the boot block in the machine readable memory
10 storage media is enabled.